

## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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### Media Alert

Contact: Alvin Wright      713-837-0004 office  
713-859-7608 cell

September 17, 2008

### Boil Water Notice rescinded for the entire Houston area

On Wednesday, September 17, 2008, Houston Mayor Bill White signed a letter addressed to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) rescinding the Boil Water Notice for all customers served by the Houston municipal system. Water samples collected for microbiological analysis are confirmed negative for coliform organisms in all areas. Our chemists and laboratory staff perform over 600,000 water quality samples and tests each year.

We also recommend that citizens perform the following tasks as an additional precautionary measure:

- **Flush your water service line and household plumbing by running each faucet until you notice a change in water temperature, typically no more than 5 minutes**
- **Clean out ice makers by making at least three batches of ice and discarding them.**
- **Drain and fill your water heater and any other water you may have stored in tanks.**

Our water systems serve three primary functions; **Public Health and Safety** which includes high quality drinking water, **Non-consumptive** usage which includes usage for other household and commercial usages and **Fire suppression**. One hundred percent of our water system can currently meet all the non-consumptive and fire protection needs of our community.

We have been in constant contact with our state regulatory agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and have contacted our wholesale customers, including West University Place, Bellaire, the Memorial Villages, Pasadena, Webster, Friendswood, League City and many others, notifying them of our status.



## CITY OF HOUSTON

Department of Public Works and Engineering

**Bill White**

Mayor

Michael S. Marcotte, P.E., DEE  
Director  
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September 17, 2008

Mark R. Vickery, P.G.  
Executive Director  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
12100 Park 35 Circle  
Austin, TX 78753

Dear Mr. Vickery:

This letter is to inform you that the City of Houston's boil water notification issued by me on September 13, 2008, is no longer in effect for all customers served by the Houston municipal system. The City has met the requirements of 30 Texas Administrative Code Section 290.46(q)(2). Distribution pressures in excess of 20 psi are now consistently maintained throughout the distribution system and 0.5 mg/L total chlorine residual is present throughout the system. Additionally, water samples collected for microbiological analysis are confirmed negative for coliform organisms in all areas.

As mentioned in my letter to you dated September 16, 2008, only three samples collected initially tested positive for the presence of coliform bacteria. All of these samples were confirmed negative for bacteria in repeat samples and in all of these locations water pressure was at least 50 psi and total chlorine disinfectant residual was greater than 1.0 part per million. We have, therefore, concluded that the water is safe for human consumption for our entire system.

Sincerely,

Bill White  
Mayor

Council Members: Toni Lawrence Jarvis Johnson Anne Clutterbuck Wanda Adams Mike Sullivan M.J. Khan, P.E. Pam Holm Adrian Garcia  
James G. Rodriguez Peter Brown Sue Lovell Melissa Noriega Ronald C. Green Jolanda "Jo" Jones Controller: Annise D. Parker